The things Of Raymond Curtis's Life

At the age of 14. in Dalton Georgia. I was put in jail for my first ~~for~~ time for: stilling pecans. And again for stilling fish hooks out of the 5+10 store at the age of 14 or 14½. At the age of 15 I ran away from home and went to Atlanta Georgia. After about three ~~month~~ mounths in Atlanta I was put ~~my~~ in jail for stilling a man coat. I was given six mo. probation and given a bus ~~ticket~~ ticket back to Dalton Ga. I went back to school after a few weeks. I ran away again and went to Chattanooga Tenn. where again I was cought and put in jail for stilling. They gave me 30 days in the chaingang. After about two weeks of it my mother came and got me and took me back home to Dalton Georgia. After a mounth or so I got on a freight train and went to Nashville Tenn. And again I was caught for stilling apples from a store. Two weeks latter my mother came and got me and carried me back home to Dalton Ga.

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And I got in jail again in Dalton for stilling copper wire and selling it. So again my mother got me out. So at the age of about 16 I ran away again. But this time I hoboed a freight going south and I made it to Savanna where I was caught and given 30 days in the chaingang for hoboing. I did the 30 days and hoboed a train to Jacksonville Florida. I started working around the produce market loading trucks. That is where I learn't the taste of beer & wine. So after hanging around there and taking the money out of the drunkes pockets after they passed out. Other words rolling the drunks.
After about a mounth of it I hoboed on to Tampa Florida. There I hung around the beer joints on sidraw. rolling drunks. Until one day I got drunk and put in jail. I was given 15 days on the chaingang. After a day or two I escaped & went to Key West Florida. Again I got in jail for drunk. So they found out I was escaped from Tampa and sent me back. They gave me 15 more days for escaping. So after I did my time. I worked around the fishing boats for three or four mounths then I hoboed on to New Orleans. There I hung around the bars rolling drunks. After about two mounths I was put in jail again for drunk and fighting.

And given 30 days on the chaingang. So after about a week of it I escaped again. I hobood to Elpaso Texas. Where I was put in jail for hoboing. After about a week they told me to get out of town so I hopped a freight to Los Angelas Calf. I went to work at an amusement park big day and rolled drunks at night. So after about a mounths or so of it I hopped a freight and went to SanFrancisco Calf. Their I hung around skidrow and rolled drunks agan. So I joined up with a circus there and went to Seattle Washington I met this boy in Seattle and quit the circus. So me and the boy stolled a car and went to Montana. Drove the car to Montana and ditched it. And hooked a ride with a truck to Reno Nevada. We rolled a man about half drunk and he called the law on us. My butty got caught but I got away. I went back to L.A. and on down to Sandiago and over to Old Mexico. Their I got caught and the police ran me back over the border. I met up with a trucker and got a ride back to New Orleans. Their I went to work on a sea going boat. After about two weks of it it pulled in to New York were I quit. Their I met up with this boy where we would hang around the Hotels and robbed

the room's when the people went out for diner do after about a mounth of that which I didn't get caught I went back to Dalton Georgia. do after about 4 or 5 mounths I left home agan and joined up with a carnival. I ~~stoled~~ stayed with it about 90 day till we reached Chicago Ill.!! Ther I stayed on West Madison St. Ther I started robbing drunks agan and ther were more drunks than any one man could rob. When I met this boy we started robbing Hotels & Apartments agan while people were at work. do after about 4 or 5 mounths of that I got caught for burglary. And while I was in jail awaiting trial I got a letter from my mother stateing I was to report to the induction center for the Army in Atlanta July the 29th 1944. do I ~~lied~~ showed the letter to the judge and he put me on the bus to Atlanta Ga. do I went in the Army and they sent me to Fort Brage N.C. do after about 2 mounths Army I got drunk and went A.W.O.L. and came to Dalton Ga. After about 10 days they came and got me and put me in the garde guard house 30 days extra duty a shipped me to Camps Crof S.C. to take basic training. do after about 5 or 6 weeks I got drunk an went A.W.O.L. agan and went back to Dalton Georgia.

About 3 or 4 weeks later they came and got me again and took me back to camp and gave me 6 months in the guard house. After I finished my Training they ~~shipped~~ shipped me to camp Liber Alabama for Tank Training. After about two mo. me and my buddy went in to town on pass we got drunk and met two men and robbed them of their money and their car next day they caught us and took us back to camp and put us in the guard house. Before they tried us we escaped and made it to New York City. Their we rolled drunks to get by on the law got after us and I got away and my partner got caught. I hobbed on to Chicago from their on to Los Angeles Calf. Their I rolled drunks and robbed to get by on for about 2 months until I got caught. The State of Calf. gave me a year. At the end of the year the Army came and got me and took me to Fort Ord Calf. Their they gave me a year for A.W.O.L. and I did my year and was discharged then came back to Dalton Ga. August 1947. After a mo. I left home and went to Chicago. I got back on rolling drunks After a month of that I got a job driving a truck on the ~~East~~ South side of Chicago That is where I met my wife and we got married in 1948.

I worked driving this Truck for about a year. One day my boss left his wallet laying on his desk with quite a bit of money in it and I got it and he never knew where it went. After a month or month more I quit and went to work driving a bus. Their I met this man we went to robbing taverns & liquor stores. We would rob from 1 to 3 a night. We robbed over a 100 taverns & liquor stores on the South side of Chicago. Robbing by night & driving a bus by day was a little to much so I quit driving a the bus and went to robbing full time. So we moved out to Moline & Blue Island Elgin-Rockford and the towns surronding Chicago robbing gambles & taverns and any thing that look good. So we came back in to Chicago back in Gread robbing the bookies They couldn't call the law because were breaking the law themselves. So we moved out to Calumet City. It was owned by the Syndicate all the beer joints - liquor stores - Nightclubs bookies joints were owned and run by the Syndicate. So we started robbing them. Until We heard the Syndicate were after us we had to move out Because if the Syndicate had caught us we wouldn't have went to no jail. So we started driving to Saint Louis Missouri once a month. Their we would rob 2 or 3 liquor stores & beer joints on the North Side

While the law was checking them out we would be on the south side robbing 2 or 3 more. Then we would cross the river to East Saint Louis. Then the next morning we would drive back to Chicago and never get caught. One week we went to ~~Quincy~~ Quincy Ill. which is a nother town run by the Syndicate. We robbed a bookie joint owned by the Syndicate. The Syndicate got so hot on us it took us five days to ~~get back to Chicago~~ to find a way out of town. But we made it back to Chicago. (This happind between 1948-1954) We robbed so many we had to find us a new territory to keep from robbing the same place the 2 or 3rd time. I owned my own home at Oaklawn Ill. so we started driving up into Wisconsin over in to Illwoa and I bought a farm in Indiana were we robbed in Gary - Hamond - Valfrazo - Lawfiyette - San Pue - Indianapolis - so we dicited the banks would be better. So we started robbing banks We robbed a bank in each Indiana and got a pretty good little bundle their. So we went down to Peire Marvie and robbed one there and went back to Chicago and we robbed a big fancy store on the North side of Chicago.

On February 15th 1955 we went to South West City Missouri right on the border of Kansas - Oklahoma - Arkansas. So we robbed the South West City Bank. And we got $50,000. Went back to Chicago the F.B.I were waiting on me when I got their. The Federal took me to Kansas City Missouri to await trial. Their I met James Earl Ray we were in the same cell all together for about 6 months. He was tried and gave 3 years for forgery & and I was gave 17 years for bank robbery we were sent to Leavenworth Penetentiary Penetitchery and we were good friends their also. After about 6 months I was transfered to Atlanta Federal Penetentiary. Their I stayed until 1962 about 7 to 7½ years. Their you couldn't get any beer wine or liquor so when you were down in the dumps or depressed you could swap cigarettes for pep pills or some other kind of dope. So in the mean time I got filed a set on the robbery charge the state of Missouri had on me. So they flew me and gave me ten years. So after about 7½ I made parell to the state of Missouri in 1962 which is a hell hole, I didn't think there was a place on earth existed like it. Dope dep

Murder is a common every day activity in the Missouri Penitiatury. So when I got there I met my old pall James Earl Ray he was there also doing 20 years for robbery. Then me and him became close buddies again. There I fell back on the jeep jobs a close again in order to just with what was going on there. And hoping & praying every day that I would see the day I would get out again. For I couldn't have been no closer to hell than I was there. So after about 3 years I talked the warden in to sending me out to one of the state farms. ~~Out there was like a~~ After I had been locked up so long that out there on the farm I was like a dog that been chained up and had been turned loose for the first time. You could get liquor out there so one night I got drunk and I took off for Georgia. Within 3 days I was back inside the prison walls and they gave me to more years for running. So I went back to the jeep jobs and walking the yard with my friends. So I did another year And made perole back to Dalton Georgia.

After I got back to Dalton in 1966 I went to work with my brother selling cars. I was doing good, then drinking came back to my family. Only after about 6 months of freedom I was acused and charged with murder. Although I am not guilty I was found guilty and given a life sentence - I have been sitting in jail two years waiting on the supreme court. I have been doing nothing but thinking of my life and what I have done to it. Do with the things I have done justice has caught up with me even ~~[illegible]~~ though I am invent of the murder charge against me. Thinking about it the funniest part is I am in the same ill now for murder I was first put in at the age of 14 for stilling cocans 29 years ago.

You had better look out.
For if you go there once
You can go there twice.